

For Public

BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

* * * * *

In The Matter of Charges and

Complaint Against

NERI BLANCO-CUEVAS, M.D.,

Respondent.

Case No. 08-12338-1

FILED 18 August 2008

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMPLAINT

The Investigative Committee of the Board of Medical Examiners of the state of Nevada, composed of Charles N. Held, M.D., Chairman, Cindy Lamerson, M.D., Member, and Jean Stoess, M.A., Member, by and through Lyn E. Beggs, Deputy General Counsel for the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners, having a reasonable basis to believe that Neri Blanco-Cuevas, M.D., hereinafter referred to as "Respondent," has violated the provisions of NRS Chapter 630, hereby issues its formal Complaint, stating the Investigative Committee's charges and allegations, as follows:

1. Respondent is currently licensed in active status, and was so licensed by the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners, hereinafter referred to as "the Board," pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 630 of the Nevada Revised Statutes, at the time of the incidents in question.

2. Patient A was a seventy-two year old female at the time of the matter in question. Her true identity is not disclosed to protect her privacy, but her identity is disclosed in the Patient Designation served on Respondent along with a copy of this Complaint.

3. Patient A presented to Desert Springs Hospital with shortness of breath on June 19, 2005, and was admitted for a full pulmonary workup.

4. Patient A underwent a cardiac stress test on June 20, 2005, the results of which indicated inferior ischemia.

5. On June 22, 2005, Patient A underwent a cardiac catheterization and was subsequently returned to her room.

1 6. Over the course of the next several hours, Patient A's blood pressure lowered and her
2 pulse increased and she began to show signs of shock.

3 7. The hospital nursing staff contacted the attending physician as Patient A's condition
4 continued to deteriorate and the attending physician had Patient A transferred to the ICU in the early
5 evening hours of June 22, 2005.

6 8. After Patient A was transferred to ICU, multiple consults were requested including a
7 surgical consult which was performed by Respondent at approximately 1900 on June 22, 2005.

8 9. Respondent noted in her surgery consultation note that the indication was a drop in
9 hemoglobin and to rule out a variety of bleeds, hemodynamic instability and cardiac dysrhythmia and
10 that the plan was to place lines for monitoring cardiac activity as well as access lines and continue GI
11 workup to rule out GI bleed.

12 10. Subsequent to performing the consultation, Respondent did place lines including a
13 Swan-Ganz catheter and cordis line in Patient A's right chest and a triple lumen central line in her left
14 chest.

15 11. Respondent indicated in a handwritten note on Patient A's chart that lines were placed
16 and that she would follow.

17 12. At 2025 on June 22, 2005, a portable chest x-ray was completed and the radiologist who
18 read the x-ray to note that the right-sided Swan-Ganz catheter was abnormally coiled in the right atrium
19 and was possibly extending across the atrioventricular valve to the right ventricle.

20 13. On June 23, 2005, a portable ultrasound was performed demonstrating the presence of
21 intra-abdominal fluid and the radiology report from the ultrasound indicated that hemorrhage or debris
22 could not be ruled out.

23 14. Respondent did not see Patient A again until early on June 24, 2005, at which time
24 Patient A's condition had deteriorated and Respondent noted that Patient A's abdomen was distended
25 and that she would follow.

26 15. Respondent did not address the improper placement of the Swan-Ganz catheter nor was
27 the ultrasound noted.

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16. Patient A's condition continued to deteriorate and she ultimately expired in the early afternoon of June 25, 2005.

Count I

17. Nevada Administrative Code Section 630.040 defines malpractice as the failure of a physician, in treating a patient, to use the reasonable care, skill, or knowledge ordinarily used under similar circumstances.

18. Nevada Revised Statute Section 630.301(4) provides that malpractice is grounds for initiating disciplinary action against a licensee.

19. Respondent failed to use the reasonable care, skill, or knowledge ordinarily used under similar circumstances when she failed to appropriately follow Patient A to determine the cause of her shock and/or bleeding after performing a surgical consult for the reasons set forth above.

20. By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners as provided in Section 630.352 of the Nevada Revised Statutes.

WHEREFORE, the Investigative Committee prays:

1. That the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners fix a time and place for a formal hearing;

2. That the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners give Respondent notice of the charges herein against him, the time and place set for the hearing, and the possible sanctions against him;

3. That the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners determine what sanctions it will impose for the violation or violations committed by Respondent;

4. That the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners make, issue and serve on Respondent its findings of facts, conclusions of law and order, in writing, that includes the sanctions imposed; and

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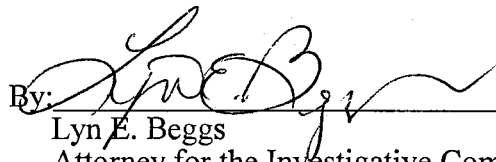
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1 5. That the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners take such other and further action as
2 may be just and proper in these premises.

3
4 **DATED** this 18th day of August, 2008.

5 INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF
6 THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

7
8 By: 

9 Lyn E. Beggs
10 Attorney for the Investigative Committee of the Nevada
11 State Board of Medical Examiners
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VERIFICATION

STATE OF NEVADA)
 : ss.
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS)

CHARLES N. HELD, M.D., having been duly sworn, hereby deposes and states under penalty of perjury that he is the Chairman of the Investigative Committee of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners that authorized the complaint against the Respondent herein; that he has read the foregoing Complaint; and that based upon information discovered in the course of the investigation into a complaint against Respondent, he believes that the allegations and charges in the foregoing Complaint against Respondent are true, accurate, and correct.

DATED this 11th day of August, 2008.



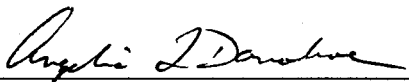
CHARLES N. HELD, M.D.

1 **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

2 I hereby certify that I am employed by Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners and that on
3 the 18th day of August 2008, I served a file copy of the COMPLAINT, NOTICE OF
4 PREHEARING/HEARING, PATIENT DESIGNATION & copy of appointment letter by mailing via
5 USPS certified return receipt to the following:

6
7 Neri Blanco-Cuevas, M.D.
8 4275 Burnham Ave., Ste. 260
9 Las Vegas, NV 89119
10

11 Dated this 18th day of August 2008.
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14 _____
15 Angelia Donohoe
16 Legal Assistant
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